

# DOUGHBOY PRISONERS SAVED FROM STARVING RED CROSS

## Weekly Boxes Sent From Switzerland Kept Hundreds Alive and Did Much to Break Down German Morale by Their Regularity and Completeness

ASIDE from being offered food that no human being could eat, and having their American clothes and parcels stolen from them, American prisoners of war in Germany were treated as mercifully as the barbarian's code will allow. That is, there was no systematic or authorized physical abuse of the 3,600 Americans who were in the hands of the Germans when the armistice was signed. And there was a practical and wholly German reason for the discrimination in favor of the Yanks, according to the first authoritative public statement of actual conditions in German prison camps, just issued by Carl P. Dennett, of Boston, who, as Deputy American Red Cross Commissioner to Switzerland, had charge of feeding, clothing and caring for American prisoners of war.

Here is that reason in Mr. Dennett's own words: "We always had in America more German agents in prison or internment camps than the total of all American prisoners, civil and military, in the hands of the Germans, and among these civilian prisoners in America were men who were held in the highest esteem and friendship by the leaders of the Prussian military party."

**Red Cross Saved Their Lives.** Before a false impression is gained from the statement that Americans were not treated with the studied brutality that the French, Italian, Russian or Rumanian prisoners were subjected to, let these words from the same report linger in memory: "The American prisoners would have starved to death if it had not been for the food parcels sent to them through our organization at Bern. The German army received the best of everything in abundance (and under a special agreement between the United States and Germany American prisoners were to receive the same rations given the German soldiers). Our prisoners were offered spoiled fish—usually seal meat or dogfish—blood sausages or sausages made from the entrails of animals, sometimes horse meat, substitute coffee, substitute mustard, bread made from potato flour, sawdust and similar ingredients—absolutely the worst, foul smelling, ill looking bread I have ever seen—bone meal and thin watery soups."

"The condition of the Italian, Russian and Rumanian prisoners who did not receive food supplies from their country of origin proves beyond question that the prison ration was not sufficient to sustain life for a prolonged period, and it was of a character that our men absolutely could not eat. Does any one believe that was the ration provided for the German troops? No evidence to the contrary is necessary."

"The reports of our neutral delegates (mainly Spanish) on their inspection of prison camps almost without exception call attention to the inadequate and unwholesome food supplied prisoners, and our returning prisoners have testified unanimously to the fact that they would have starved had it not been for the food we sent them."

"I have the testimony in one telegram of 2,200 American prisoners to that effect."

"Furthermore, our men were not placed in 'cantonnements' or barracks as enemy and food as provided for the German troops. Some of the camps were better than others and the conditions were fairly good; other camps were filthy and miserable to an extreme degree, without adequate sleeping, bathing, toilet, cooking or hospital facilities; and the men were subjected to petty annoyances and abuses."

**Brandeggee in Treaty Fight**

Continued from Fourth Page.

written to Augustus Brandeggee, had been withheld from the son. It pleased the father immensely, but he wished his son to leave politics and practise law. In the pride of his fatherhood, however, Judge Brandeggee sent the letter to his daughter, the wife of an army officer, stationed at Omaha. And the daughter, after the Judge's death, sent it to her brother. And the brother, showing it to Mrs. Platt, gained her eager consent for its use. "That settled it," said Senator Brandeggee to the writer, referring to the effect of the letter on the caucus that had been deadlocked for thirty-six ballots and for twelve continuous hours.

Necessity, therefore, any sketch of Brandeggee must bring in Orville H. Platt as a major and not a minor character of the story as a whole—Platt, the intimate companion of Mark Hanna, though he was poor and Hanna rich; though he was scholarly, while Hanna seldom or ever read a book; though he was a Puritan and Hanna a cavalier.

After Frank B. Brandeggee graduated at Yale with honors and where besides he pulled the bow of his class crew for three years, he travelled for twelve months in Great Britain and on the Continent of Europe. Reading law in his father's New London office, he was taken into partnership on his admission to the bar.

Practically he has been a legislator for thirty-one years, first in the General Assembly of his State, where he rose to the Speakership of the House, and then in both branches of Congress.

There would have been no sense in asking Senator Brandeggee about protection for home industries; he believes in it. Nor about the League of Nations; he does not believe in it. The big subject of the hour is the "present order."

Senator Fernald of Maine, talking to the writer, said of the world, all of it is within the boundaries of civilization, "on a spree." What is going to happen? The question was put to Senator Brandeggee.

Dennett. The Americans prefaced their demands with the following declarations:

"1. The German Government does not provide adequate food to sustain life for the American prisoners of war."

"2. The German Government does not provide adequate warm clothing for American prisoners of war."

"3. The United States provides for German prisoners of war precisely the same food as that supplied to the American troops, which is wholesome, adequate, and even abundant."

"4. The United States provides for the German prisoners of war sufficient warm clothing."

"The American Government finds itself in the curious position of having to feed and clothe German prisoners of war in its hands, and also the American prisoners of war in the hands of the German military forces."

To meet this condition the United States Government has made arrangements with the American Red Cross by which the American Red Cross undertakes to do the following:

"1. Obtain at the earliest possible moment the names of American prisoners of war in the hands of the German military forces."

"2. Obtain accurate camp addresses of these American prisoners of war."

"3. Transmit this information to General Headquarters of the American Expeditionary Forces, to the American Red Cross at Washington, which in turn notifies the families of the prisoners, and to the American Red Cross at Paris to clear its records in connection with the work of searching for missing men in the hospitals in France."

"4. Ship necessary relief supplies to American prisoners." &c.

**Avoided "Barb Wire" Disease.** Important provisions for carrying out the purpose of this agreement included the organization of Camp Help Committees among the American prisoners, these committees being empowered to communicate freely and directly with the American Red Cross, Department of Prisoners of War, at Bern.

This was a vital and practical arrangement, which contributed to the success of the whole prisoners' relief undertaking, and that it was a success the prisoners themselves have proved. The American prisoners, made known their wants through a group within themselves, and as Mr. Dennett shows by photographs, they were kept well clothed and well fed, and finally were repatriated apparently none the worse for their confinement.

They did not contract the dread "barb wire disease," as the effect of malnutrition was called, which "stamped the neglect of a prisoner of war."

"When the armistice was signed," says Mr. Dennett, "approximately 75 per cent of the American prisoners were in camps close to the Rhine and near the zone proposed to be occupied by the Allied armies."

I went to France and met the first prisoners to return, among them men who were at the head of our Camp Help Committees. They stated that they had ample food and clothing and were able to give considerable amounts of food to the starving Italians."

Mr. Dennett emphasizes the psychological effect upon the German population of the American efforts to relieve American prisoners in this way: "The United States Government showed its determination to look after its prisoners, watch their treatment, see that they were well fed and well clothed. All these things had their effect on the German mind. While never contemplated for that purpose, it is undoubtedly true that the food and clothing parcels sent to American prisoners constituted the best possible propaganda."

"The German population had been systematically educated to believe that an American army of any size could not possibly be sent to France and that even if such an army was sent it would be physically impossible to transport the necessary food, clothing and supplies. And yet here were prisoners, coming from America twenty pounds per week of better food than the German population had seen for years, and better clothing."

**German Officialism Embarrassed.** "The effect was irresistible and spread all over Germany. It became a source of embarrassment to the German officials, and we were even told that we were sending more supplies than they needed, and asked to reduce the quantity. We were informed officially that the prisoners received so much food that they were using their canned vegetables to play 'pass ball' with. Of course, using a can of corn to toss around a circle instead of a ball didn't hurt the contents any, but it made a profound impression on the Germans to see good food used in such an apparently reckless manner."

"Because the American prisoners were sent food, clothing and toilet articles to enable them to maintain their health and self-respect they were respected by the Germans. On the contrary, Italian and Russian prisoners, who received no supplies, were starved and in rags and as a consequence were despised by the Germans. The origin of a prisoner neglected him, the Germans felt safe to indulge in every brutality, but if the prisoner was respected, cared for and watched by his own country, that produced a most beneficial effect upon the German military authorities and guards, especially the last year of the war, when they discovered that their brutality and reprisal camps were not spreading among the Allies the terror upon which they had counted, but on the contrary they were making them fight the harder and better."

Bands and orchestras were organized among the American prisoners and entertainments given. Mr. Dennett tells amusingly of sets of band music sent from America, including "Just Like Washington Crossing the Delaware," "Pershing Will Cross the Rhine," "It's a Long Way to Berlin—But We'll Get There," &c. Rather than deprive the American prisoner bands of these pieces the titles were clipped off and merely the sheets of music forwarded. Thus the German guards and prison officials were serenaded by Yanks with these tunes, and returning prisoners probably were amazed to learn the words sung to them at home.

**Some Respect for Neutrals.** "Starvation and suffering were prevented solely by the relief supplies sent to the prisoners from the outside," the deputy Red Cross commissioner concludes, "and all the facilities for recreation, exercise, amusement and education were also supplied from other than German sources."

"The Germans simply let them eat the food and wear the clothing which was sent in and which was some economic advantage to Germany."

"The German officials were always evasive, tricky and full of deception. If they could lie out of an abuse or a bad situation, they usually did so. They had little or no regard for treaties or agreements and violated them without hesitation. They did have some hesitation about outraging the feelings of what few neutrals were left in the world after America entered the war and would sometimes back down from violations of agreements when representatives of neutrals intervened and took an active part in protesting."

**HOW CHILDREN'S CLUBS PAY.** A BOY or a girl who belongs to one of the clubs organized by the Department of Agriculture and the State colleges gets better marks in school than one who doesn't. This is the testimony of the county superintendents where clubs have been organized as brought out by a recent inquiry in the Southern States.

In Monongalia county, W. Va., for years a complete record has been kept of the scores of members and of the same number of pupils of the same grade and age and from the same schools. The records show that the club members have averaged 15 per cent above those who do not belong to a club, 12 per cent in attendance and 23 per cent in attendance at high school, and in the eighth grade. At the annual spelling contest in the county all the winners were club boys and girls.

A four-year record in Comanche county, Tex., shows the scholarship of the club boys and girls to be 11 per cent above those who do not belong to a club. Of the 4,000 boys and girls in rural schools not expelled or suspended was a club member. The superintendents agree that club members are more active, have more inspiration to do better work and possess the desire to search for new things. Few club members were in the lower grades, and these not of their own choice.

Teachers who really care for good English have their hearts nearly broken by conditions. The odds against them are great. There is only one correct form and hundreds of incorrect forms. There are many different kinds of foreigners each with a different dialect, making confusion. Also there is:

1. Ignorance. The person who knows how to speak correctly is exceptional.

2. Laziness. Many seem to find it easier to clip or slur their words.

3. Perversity. Pupils who know better use the argot of the street in preference to the language of the school.

The battle rages every hour of every school day in every school district and yet the forces of corruption, perversion and lip laziness are not routed. They cheerfully go right on generating and disseminating their verbal abominations with amazing persistence and industry. Local dialects are formed or in process of formation, said one New York principal:

"If each district of the city was walled around and the inhabitants were isolated, in twenty years dialects would be so strongly developed that the inhabitants of one district would have difficulty in understanding the inhabitants of another."

In a district such as Brownsville, the great settlement of Russian Jewish laborers, where 89 per cent of the children's parents are foreign born, there is good excuse for bad English, but teachers' difficulties are not greatest in Brownsville. New comers in the schools there are put in foreigners' classes and taught by the theme method, the teacher pointing to an article and giving its name, as: "Water," "pitcher," "glass," "I pour water," "door," "I shut door."

**"Ain't" is Inevitable.** In Brownsville the only English the children get is the English of the schools; they are not deluged by bad English in their own homes as are some of the American children. It seems better to have parents who know no English at all than parents who speak it incorrectly. Teachers find it almost impossible to extirpate the word "ain't" because so many American parents use it.

Each school is a law unto itself in regard to teaching English, because in each school the problem is different. In one the chief difficulty is ignorance, in another lip laziness, in another perversity. So teachers' methods differ. The principal mentioned above uses ridicule very effectively. The Irish boy or girl, though humorous, cannot endure to be laughed at.

Some teachers write upon the blackboard incorrect sentences and call upon pupils to point out the errors. But many feel toward this method as the lady felt when she entered a room and

# "TIME FODDER SEZ," A STUDY IN ENGLISH

What the School Boy Said and How He Wrote the Same Sentence Presents an Interesting Phase in the Use and Abuse of Language and Underlying Causes.

found her enterprising small son standing on a chair talking confidentially to the parrot.

"Oh, Tommy!" she cried, "Are you actually teaching Polly to say all those naughty words?"

"Why, no, ma," defended Tommy. "I'm just telling Polly all the naughty words he mustn't say."

These teachers say that the wrong form should never be given, for fear of impressing it on pupils' minds. Instead, they correct errors as they arise and a little later ask questions to make sure that the pupils have understood the corrections. In some schools teachers make lists of common errors of speech on which they exercise the pupils, pointing out the errors. This is one list:

"Ain't got no, ain't got none. You see that, you don't dare do it, I told you, he give it to me brother, me mother told me to, I left me glove in me coat."

"I-Brother learned me my, can I take my book, can I go home, I done it, he done it, he drawed, my point is broke, sheeps, reindeers, mans, mens."

"2A-I et my dinner, he got it off me, I bought it off the pedler, I seen him do it, kin I get my pen, me hear, is broke, he done it."

"2B-It got took, gimme that, he brag it, I didn't git none, me arm bolts, I'm got it, I ain't got no pen. 2A-I ain't, there ain't, that ain't no pencil, ain't done yet, I ain't got it, I haven't got none, I've got it, I'm got it, my father and mother was there, they was late, the girls was late, where was you? was you out? where is the keys? where is the boys?"

"3B-It don't need any, he don't do it right, he seen him, I come outnorn after centuries of use. Take the word 'guy,' for instance. New York stole that from London. It has been a part of London's slang for centuries and in London it was apt and picturesque because London knew all about guys, the men who carried the home late last night, John come home late this morning, ain't got no, where's the girls? I done it, he done it."

"4A-I laid down and slept, tell the dog to lay down, I can hardly set up, it is me, it's me, it wasn't me, it was them, I ain't got none, I seen him do it, I didn't git none, I didn't do nothing."

**"Who" and "Whom" Troublesome.** "4B-Who are you going to take? who did you ask? who did you say? I don't like them things, them two girls did it, me point is broke, he et his dinner, git it now."

"5A-Him and me will go, me and John is going, me and me brother was there, it was fine looking shoes, two girls was late, I've got it, where was you?"

"5B-She bees late every day, he bees in church every, he swears that he, it was writ, it felled off and got broke, I'm not done it, I'm got it marked."

"6A-My mother says, he says that he, my mother says like this, he shouldn't have his book open, he wouldn't yet, where is the keys? we seen him when he done it, it's me, it is me, it was them."

"6B-He has it in his hand, there is much people, she asked me would I go, there is six, it don't need any. 7A-Give me the lend, I'm just after doing it, who did you say? (yes), ha? (what was the question?), me pencil, me brother."

"7B-Review the following: Use of may and can, use of got, I got it off my father, it is me, it wasn't them, I think it is her, I didn't know you was going."

"8A-Review particularly the following: He asked me would I do him a favor, use of was and were (see 2A), use of lie and lay (see 3B), use of see and seen (see 2A), use of sit and set (see 4A), use of do and does (see 3B), nominative and objective case (see 4A, 4B, 5A), use of may and might (see 3B), nominatives after forms of the verb to be, improper use of say, agreement of subject and verb (8A), double negative (see 1A and 2B)."

A list such as that is like a few grains of sand picked up from the seashore. A hundred or a thousand

accustomed to it maintain that a blend of two or three parts of good coffee to one of chicory is superior to coffee alone. Americans, however, do not wittingly use the mixture. They are prejudiced because it is the dog with the bad name. Yet the simple mixture of pure chicory with good coffee, even when dishonestly sold for coffee, seems more wholesome than the limitation coffees composed of only wheat or than dried coffee grounds re-aromatized by chemical methods and sold in pound packages with fancy labels.

Since people demand chicory they seem to have a reason for the story against it, provided it be sold under its own name, or, if mixed with coffee, the fact be stated by the dealer upon his package. To persons who are not aware that the true flavor of coffee is dependent upon its aroma, a voluble chatter about the strength of chicory, the substitution of chicory can bring no disappointment; but this is no argument for deluding them. They should buy each separately or buy the mixture as such.

From the standpoint of health, the case does not seem clearly against chicory. Certainly much of the argument against it is unaccompanied by data and even the best data are not free from the objection of unfairness. From the opinion of experts the mixture of a small quantity of chicory to good coffee was improving, since it reduced the well known nervous action of coffee; when used with cheaper grades, however, the reverse was true, probably because the stuff was already adulterated largely.

Any one in the habit of purchasing ground coffee may determine for himself whether it contains chicory, by dropping a pinch of the suspected article in a glass of cold water. Chicory will soon absorb water and sink, staining the water a handsome brown; coffee will remain upon the surface for hours and even days without changing.

**CHICORY AS A BEVERAGE**

At the word "chicory" every one pricks up his ears or sniffs de

risively, for is it not the adulterate of coffee? And has it not been sent to the pillory and the stock to be jeered at? Just ask the pure foodist!

But perhaps you do not know all there is to know about chicory. A glance at its history will reveal the reason for its popularity as a beverage and adulterant. About one hundred and thirty years ago some Holland coffee dealer, induced by the growing demand and high price of coffee, practiced sophistication for the usual end—profit. They discovered that chicory root, roasted and ground, answered their purpose better than any other substance, not merely because it was not easily detected, but also because the mixture really was superior to coffee alone. The secret was carefully guarded, but became publicly, or at least more widely, known about the beginning of the last century.

At the time the great Napoleonic blockade made coffee, tea and cocoa almost unobtainable and led to excessive adulteration and substitutions, the principal of which, in the case of coffee, were made with chicory. So accustomed did the people become during the blockade to the use of chicory, either mixed with coffee or in the pure form, that in the piping times of peace that followed they continued to demand it. The result is that upon the Continent its place now is fixed as firmly as that of tea, coffee or cocoa.

In the century that has passed since the blockade, chicory has not only held the field against all other coffee adulterants, but even has risen to the rank of a fourth beverage, being protected from sophistication by European food laws in an equal degree with the three other great beverages.

So general is its use that Europeans

such lists would merely illustrate bad English. It is a perfect tide bearing perpetually on the work of the schools and crumbling it away. Hard indeed is it for the teachers to secure good English even in the 8B grade, and pupils have had eight years of schooling. Few recognize how important a thing good English is and how errors learned in youth will stick. Some men achieve high education and yet retain some gaucheries of expression—learned in childhood and never corrected—that are infinitely shocking to cultured friends and that proclaim in plainest manner the speaker's humble origin. When Abraham Lincoln first came to New York city and spoke at Cooper Union some professors from the great universities were among those who heard him. To them the most astonishing thing about this rugged Westerner was his English. It was beautiful, simple, pure. Where did he get it? they asked. Where did Shakespeare get his English, or Burns or Keats or Poe, or even Mr. Murphy get his knowledge of chess?

Lincoln taught himself, but there was only one Lincoln, and many another self-taught man drags about with him some dreadful verbal deformity that now and then intrudes when he is discoursing like an angel, and spoils the effect of what he is saying. The other day on the baseball ground of a large city the players of one team were shouting opprobrium at one of their opponents when the umpire, who has a good opinion of himself, took a hand, calling across the diamond to the manager of the disorderly players:

"Mr. Billings, Mr. Billings! Instruct your men to cut out their personalities! Cut out them personalities, I say!"

A shrill voice came from the free stand: "Mr. Umpire, Mr. Umpire! Cut out them grammar! Cut out them grammar, I say!"